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FORM NO. 51-44A  
FEB 1952

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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**INFORMATION REPORT**  
**REFERENCE COPY**

REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY USSR (Latvian SSR) **DO NOT CIRCULATE**

DATE DISTR. 25 April 1952

SUBJECT Soviet Air Force Training in the Kurzeme Area

NO. OF PAGES 2

DATE OF INFO.

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

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PLACE ACQUIRED

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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Airfield Near Tukums

1. During June and July 1951 the following activities of the Soviet Air Force were observed over the western part of Latvia.
2. It is believed that the observed aircraft took-off from the airfield near Tukums, but the exact location of the airfield is not known.
3. After dark, aircraft took-off for night training flights singly and in groups of two and three aircraft. The distance between aircraft in such groups was thirty to fifty meters. Aircraft observed on such flights were biplanes, apparently PO-2s.
4. Judging by the noise of the engines that could be heard from the airfield, training was being carried out in night landings and take-offs.
5. Occasionally during the night twin-engine monoplanes were observed coming from the airfield. The type of these aircraft is not known, but their speed was estimated at 350 km. per hour.
6. On some days fighter aircraft took-off and landed during the day, and on occasion, this went on continuously all day.
7. Fighter aircraft flew in twos and threes and practiced target shooting. The target was a cylindrical bag towed by another aircraft, and the practice included approaching the target from above, from below, and from either side, while the aircraft towing the target was flying straight and also while it was turning.
8. The type of fighter aircraft observed were YAK-3s, with an estimated speed of 600 km. per hour.

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-2-

9. The activities observed over this airfield took place for two to three weeks at a time, after which there was no flying for two or three weeks, even during ideal flying weather, and then there was renewed activity for two to three weeks, which seems to suggest that there is no permanent air training school at this field but that it is used by Soviet Air Force units to complete a certain part of their training.

Airfield Near Engure

10. During the summer of 1950, activities similar to those described above were also observed although the location of the airfield from which fighter aircraft came was not definitely known, it is believed that the aircraft which took part came from a field in the vicinity of Engure (57-09N, 23-13E). The types of aircraft observed were similar to those described in paragraph eight above.
11. During June and July 1950 twin-engine monoplane bombers were also observed flying out towards the Gulf of Miga, and soon afterwards, the detonation of bombs could be heard. The bomber aircraft flew at an estimated speed of 400 km. per hour. The sound of the detonations came from a sector between Engure and Merarags (57-22N, 23-07E) and it is believed that the bombs were dropped into the sea.
12. Occasionally, judging only from the sound as the aircraft could not be seen, larger units of bombers flew towards the Gulf of Miga, and the explosion of bombs could be heard from the direction of the Gulf.

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1.  Comment: The airfield at Sukums is located 2 1/2 miles SSE of Sukums and 3 1/4 miles west of Miga.

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